

In The Claims:

Cancel Claims 14 and 15.

12. (Currently amended) A upstanding hook attachment device for attachment between a front end loader and bucket wherein said loader has arms which are powered by the loader to various positions with arm engagement means at the outer ends of the arms;

said upstanding hook attachment device comprising an elongated upstanding hook frame having an upper and lower end, a plurality of hooks each having downward pointed front ends and rearward portions pivotally mounted to the upper end of the hook frame, hydraulic means connected between the hooks and the hook frame to power the pivotal movement of the hooks relative to the hook frame, engagement means along the rearward portion of the hook frame to inter engage with the engagement means on the arms of the loader to lock the hook frame to the arms of the loader;

said bucket having an open front and a rearward face with engagement means on the rear face of the bucket ;

said hook frame having inter engagement means on its front face to engage the engagement means on the rear face of the bucket to lock the bucket to the hook frame, while the hook frame, in turn, is locked to the arms of the loader, whereby the bucket may be used with the hooks on the hook frame while the hook frame and bucket are mounted to the arms of the loader; and

wherein said bucket engagement means are engagable with the loader engagement means for directly mounting the bucket to the loader, in lieu of the hook frame;

said hydraulic means comprising hydraulic piston and cylinders mounted between the hooks and the hook frame to power the pivotal movement of the hooks on the hook frame, said hook frame having hydraulic cable lines extending from the loader to cylinders on the hook frame, said engagement means on said loader having a rigid detachable connection with said hook frame with a pivotal connection to the arms of the loader;

a pair of pivoting channels pivotal connected together at their ends with one of said channels mounted on the hook frame, said channels receiving said cable lines along their length with succeeding portions

Add the following new claims:

16.(new) A hook attachment apparatus comprising an elongated upright rectangular hook frame having a plurality of hooks pivotally mounted thereon for use in connection with a front end loader or for use in connection with a front end loader and a bucket;

and wherein said front end loader has arms at its forward end with front attachment means at the front of the arms with said front attachment means comprising a forward pair of downward engaging attachment pins and a horizontal forward and upward projecting plate extending laterally across the front of the loader attachment means above the pair of downward engaging attachment pins;

and wherein said bucket has a pair of rear pin receiving eyelet attachment means on a rearward face portion of the bucket with a rearward and downward extending plate extending laterally across the rear face of the bucket;

said rectangular upright hook frame having an upper and lower end, said plurality of hooks having rearward ends pivotally mounted beside one another laterally parallel to one another along the upper end of the hook frame and extending forward with the forward ends forming forward and downward extending hooks;

said hook frame having a front and rear face;

a rear pair of eyelet pin receiving means on the lower rear face of the hook frame to detachably receive the front pair of pin attachment means on the arms of the loader, said hook frame having a rear complementary laterally and horizontally extending plate across the rear face of the hook frame projecting rearward and downward to frontally receive, in complementary relation, said horizontal front plate of said arms of said loader, to thereby detachably mount the hook frame to the front end loader, whereby the hook frame with the hooks may be used with the front end loader;

said hook frame having a horizontal and upward projecting plate on its front face to frontally and detachably engage beneath the horizontal rearward and downward extending plate on the rear face of the bucket, said hook frame having a front pair of downward engaging attachment pins on its front face to detachably engage the rear pin receiving eyelets on rear of the bucket to detachably mount the bucket to the front of the hook frame, whereby the hook frame and hooks thereon may be used alone on the front end loader with the bucket detached or the hook frame and hooks thereon may also be used with the front end loader with the bucket attached.

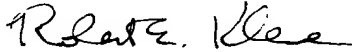
17. (new) A hook frame according to Claim 16, wherein the front pair of attachment pins each have a turnable handle to slidably and detachably engage the attachment pins to the bucket.

using the plates to hold the bucket or using the plates to hold the bucket and the hooks, and also does not offer the third alternative of holding the hooks alone, as is possible with applicant's device.

Thus, there is no showing nor suggestion of a separate hook frame to hold the hooks with frontal face mounting for the bucket and rear face mounting for the loader as now more specifically recited in Claim 16, and accordingly, favorable consideration of Claim 16 is courteously requested.

A new dependent Claim 17 is being added patterned along the lines of canceled dependent Claim 15 and favorable consideration of dependent Claim 17 is courteously requested.

Respectfully,



Robert E. Kleve  
Attorney of Record  
Ph. 701-772-4311